



The Urban Environmental Program (UEP), launched in 1995 as the Urban Environmental Initiative, addresses environmental and public health problems in urban areas. The UEP facilitates community based environmental protection in targeted cities by taking an active roll in listening to community needs and concerns, identifying projects, and providing resources to implement projects that make measurable improvements in public health and the quality of the urban environment.

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Greater Boston, Mass.

Photo: Steve Delaney



What Makes Greater Boston Special?

- Greater Boston is a tightly packed city with 16 neighborhoods.
- EPA's UEP targets work in Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Chinatown, East Boston, and Chelsea.

Why Does Greater Boston Need Special Attention?

- Asthma is the leading cause of childhood emergency hospitalizations in Boston; in Dorchester and Roxbury this rate is 178% higher than the state average.
- In 2001, there were about 1,100 children in Boston with elevated blood lead levels. The majority of cases are in the lowest-income, most diverse neighborhoods (North and South Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan and Hyde Park).
- Chelsea is home to the largest salt pile in the Northeast and stores 100% of Logan Airport's fuel. Over 1 million tons of fuel passes through the Chelsea Bridge every month.
- Greater Boston urban rivers are not yet fishable or swimmable.

What are the Long-Term Goals?

- Virtually eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Boston by 2005 and become the first city in the nation to achieve this goal.
- Raise awareness and build local capacity to make measurable improvements in the quality of the urban environment and public health.

Progress/Goals for the Future

What Partnership Progress has Been Made?

- Condor Street Urban Wild: Chelsea Creek Action Group, New Ecology Institute, and Neighborhood of Affordable Housing all worked with the UEP, EPA NE, and US Department of Justice to negotiate a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) worth \$1.2M with Waste Management to help create the Condor Street Urban Wild. The 4.5 acre site in East Boston adjacent to the Chelsea Creek will be cleaned up, and a community vision for the restored natural resource will become reality.
- Chelsea Creek Community-Based Comparative Risk Assessment: Completed a two-year project with community partners to identify available data and public health risks related to water quality, ambient air quality, respiratory disease, open/green space, water quality, traffic, and noise.
- Multi-lingual Outreach in Chinatown: UEP worked with the Chinese Progressive Association to produce bilingual fact sheets on environmental justice, asthma and air pollution, indoor air quality, construction waste and dust, integrated pest management, and environmental regulations.

What are the Major Actions Planned for 2002?

- Target lead enforcement, outreach and education in neighborhoods in Greater Boston with the greatest concentrations of children with elevated blood lead

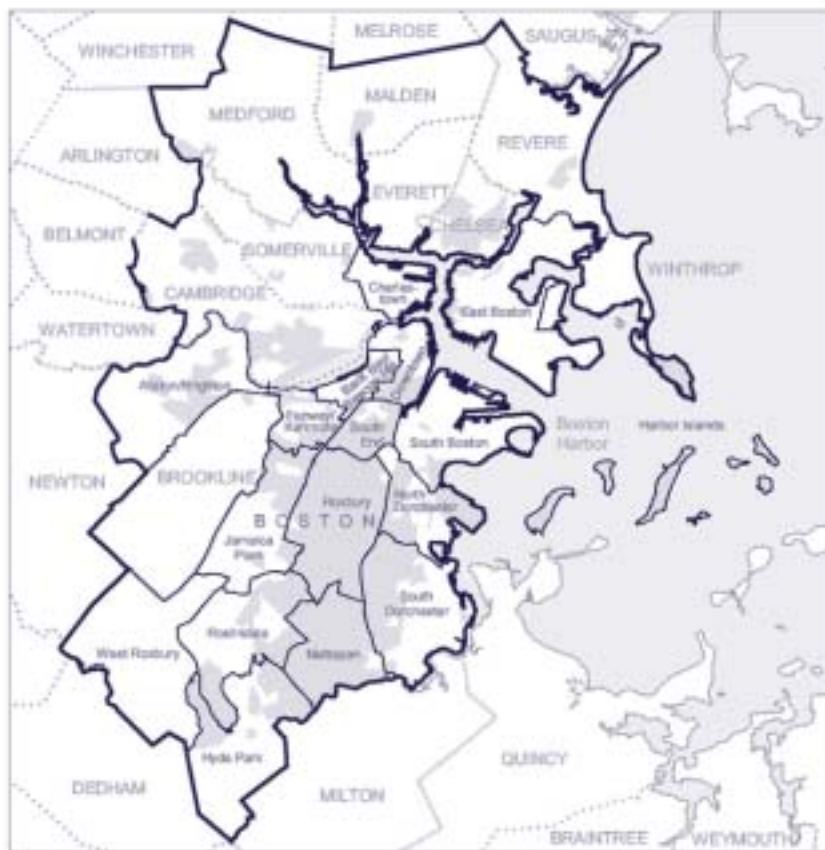
(continued)

Greater Boston, MA



Who Are The Partners?

UEI Community Partnerships • Alternatives for Community and Environment • Greater Boston Environmental Justice Network • Greater Boston Urban Resource Partnership (GBURP) • Environmental Diversity Forum • Neighborhoods Against Urban Pollution (NAUP) • Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative • Dimmock, Codman Square, South Boston and Bowdoin Street Health Centers • Committee for Boston Public Housing • Chinese Progressive Association • Tellus Institute • National Center for Lead Safe Housing • MA Public Health Association • Roxbury Community College • Boston University, School of Public Health • City of Boston, Office of Sustainable Boston, The Environment Department • MA Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) • EarthWorks Project • East Boston Recreation, Master Planning, Land Use Advisory Council • STRIVE/Boston Employment Service, Inc. • Environmental League of Massachusetts • Save the Harbor/Save the Bay • New Ecology Institute • University of Boston, Urban Harbors Institute • MA Bays Program • MA Coastal Zone Management Program • Metropolitan Area Planning Council • U.S. Housing and Urban Development • U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service - Forest Service • Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Program • The Food Project • Second Nature Inc. • New England North East State for Coordinated Air Use Management • Re-Vision House • City Life/Vida Urbana • Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture • City of Boston Environment Department • Massachusetts Department of Fish, Wildlife and Law Enforcement - Riverways Program • Appalachian Mountain Club • Reaching Out to Chelsea Adolescents (ROCA) • Chelsea Creek Action Group (CCAG) • Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee • Chelsea Community Connection Coalition • Chelsea Human Service Collaborative • Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) • The Freedom House • The Lead Action Collaborative



Legend

- Large Minority/Low Income Population
- Greater Boston Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- Town Boundary

Data Sources: Political boundaries from MapGIS at 1:24,000
Demographic data from US Census Bureau (1990)
January 10, 2001



What are the Major Actions Planned for 2002? (continued)

levels aiming towards measurably reducing the number of lead poisoned children in Boston, MA.

- Construct the Condor Street Urban Wild to implement community vision to create an urban salt marsh, passive park, and restoration of 4.5 acre site in East Boston adjacent to the Chelsea Creek.
- Train community leaders and decision makers on the principles of Smart Growth for inclusion in neighborhood strategic development plans.
- Host community listening sessions in urban areas across MA to identify community interests, needs, and priorities.
- Develop plan to transition UEP focus from working exclusively in Greater Boston to servicing the needs of low-income, diverse urban neighborhoods across Massachusetts.



New England

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Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call to learn how EPA can help.

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